

APPENDIX 3

POLICIES AND DECISIONS CONCERNING EFFECTS TO THE OREGON/MORMON/CALIFORNIA/PONY EXPRESS TRAILS IN THE LANDER FIELD OFFICE

The Wyoming State Protocol to implement the National Historic Preservation Act states:

“If a proposed project will be visible and there is moderate or strong contrast a determination of ‘Adverse Effect’ is appropriate. A ‘Moderate Contrast’ occurs when the proposed project elements, or portions of the elements, begin to attract attention and begin to dominate the characteristic landscape. A ‘Strong Contrast’ occurs when the proposed project elements, or portions of the elements, demand attention, cannot be overlooked, and are dominant on the landscape (see Appendix C of this Protocol). In this case, a determination of ‘Adverse Effect’ is appropriate.”

The BLM Wyoming Oregon/Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails Management Plan states:

“Because of the Trails’ status as congressionally designated components of the National Trails System, management decisions have been made that significant segments of the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trails are to be protected. It is incumbent on BLM managers to maintain the scenic/historic integrity of historic sites and cross country segments on the public, to avoid destruction of trail resources, to mitigate unavoidable impacts, to accord the trails a priority status in the land use planning process, and generally extend to the trails the type of protection afforded to other nationally significant historic sites.”

(Oregon/Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails Management Plan: Part I, Bureau of Land Management Responsibilities, Section 3).

The Plan also states:

“All historic sites and cross-country segments of the trails on federal lands should be managed to protect and interpret their historic values.” (Oregon/Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails Management Plan: Part II, General Management Objectives, Section 3).

The Plan also states:

“New fencing projects will cross the trail corridor at right angles to minimize the number of feet per miles of fence within the corridor. Gates, and in some cases, cattleguards will be installed in the fence at trail crossings. *Fragile or pristine trail ruts will be avoided with fence crossings.*” (Oregon/Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails Management Plan: Part III, Oregon/Mormon Trail General Management Policy, Fencing section).

The 1987 Lander RMP states:

“The management plan focuses on general methods of management that protect and maintain important trail values, while allowing public use and enjoyment of the trails. Important segments of the trails and trail-related sites are recommended for special protection, interpretation, use, or other management measures.....The management decisions outlined in the Oregon/Mormon Pioneer Trails Management Plan are consistent with the decisions in the RMP.” (Lander RMP Record of Decision, Overview, Cultural/Natural History section)

The Lander RMP also states:

“The Oregon/Mormon Pioneer Trail Management Plan will establish protection, use, and management guidelines for public land trail resources throughout the state of Wyoming, including the Lander Resource Area. Recommendations now formulated for the trail will establish the following in the Beaver Creek Management Unit: a ¼ mile or visible horizon corridor (whichever is closer) on each side of selected trail segments, where modern intrusions and disturbances will be minimized or prohibited.....Adoption of these recommendations will provide continued protection of this National Historic Trail and several of its highly important sites. This type of management will ensure compliance with National Trails System Act requirements for the protection of important trail segments and sites, as well as provide for the preservation of several National Register listed and eligible trail properties. Longstanding efforts of BLM to protect and encourage public enjoyment of the trail will continue.” (Lander RMP Record of Decision, Decisions by Resource Management Unit, Beaver Creek Management Unit, Cultural/Natural History section)